His Majesties ANSWER, TO THE PETITION AND Three Votes of *Parliament*,

Presented to him at *York*, *May* 23. 1642. Concerning the disbanding of His MAJESTIES Guard.

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1642.

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie

The Humble Petition of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

YOur Majesties loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in this Parliament, do humbly represent unto Your Majestie, that notwithstanding Your frequent protestions to Your Parliament, and the Kingdome, and the late expression in Your answer of the 13. of May to the Petition of the County of York; that Your desire and intention is only the preserving of the true Protestant profession, the Lawes of the Land, the Libertie of Your people, and the peace of the Kingdom; Nevertheless, with great grief, we perceive by Your Speech of the 12. of May, and the Paper printed in Your Majesties Name, in the forme of a Proclamation, bearing date the 14. of May, and other evidences, that under colour of raising a Guard to secure Your Person, of which Guard (considering the liberty and care of Your Parliament) there can be [illegible] Your Majestie doth command [illegible] to assemble at York, the very [illegible] comprehended by the inhabitants of that County [illegible] affrightment and disturbance of Your Majesties liege people, as appeares by their Petition presented to Your Majestie, the

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie

The Humble Petition of the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

YOur Majeſties loyall Subjects, the Lords and Commons in this Parliament, do humbly repreſent unto Your Majeſtie, that notwithſtanding Your frequent profeſſions to Your Parliament, and the Kingdome, and the late expreſſion in Your anſwer of the 13. of *May* to the Petition of the County of *York*, that Your deſire and intention is onely the preſerving of the true Proteſtant profeſſion, the Lawes of the Land, the Libertie of Your people, and the peace of the Kingdom; Nevertheleſſe, with great grief, we perceive by Your Speech of the 12 of *May*, and the Paper printed in Your Majeſties Name, in the forme of a Proclamation, bearing date the 14. of *May*, and other evidences, that under colour of raiſing a Guard to ſecure Your Perſon, of which Guard (conſidering the fidelity and care of Your Parliament) there can be no uſe, Your Majeſtie doth command Troops both of Horſe and Foot to aſſemble at *York*, the very beginnings whereof were apprehended by the inhabitants of that County to be an affrightment and diſturbance of Your Majeſties liege people, as appeares by their Petition preſented to Your Majeſtie, the

continuing and increaſe of which Forces is to Your Parliament, and muſt needs be a juſt cauſe of great Jealouſie and danger to your whole Kingdom.

Therefore we do humbly beſeech Your Majeſtie to disband all ſuch forces as by Your command are aſſembled, and relying for Your ſecurity (as Your Predeceſſours have done) upon the Lawes and the affections of Your people, You will be pleaſed to deſiſt from any further deſignes of this nature, contenting Your Self with Your uſual and ordinary Guards; otherwiſe we ſhall hold our ſelves bound in duty towards God, and the truſt repoſed in us by the people, and the fundamentall Lawes and Conſtitutions of this Kingdome, to imploy our care and utmoſt power to ſecure the Parliament, and to preſerve the peace and quiet of the Kingdome.

Die

Die Veneris 20. Maii. 1642.

Resolved upon the Question.

THat it appears, That the King, (seduced by wicked Counsell) Intends to make War against the Parliament, who (in all their consultations and actions) have proposed no other end unto themselves, but the care of His Kingdoms, and the performance of all duty and loyaltie to His Person. I.

Resolved upon the Question.

That whensoever the King maketh War upon the Parliament, it is a breach of the trust reposed in Him by His people, contrary to His Oath, and tending to the dissolution of this Government. II.

Resolved upon the Question.

That whosoever shall serve, or assist Him in such Wars, are Traitours by the Fundamentall Lawes of this Kingdom, and have been so adjudged by two Acts of Parliament, and ought to suffer as Traitours. III. 11. Ric. 2. 1. Hen. 4.

Io Browne cler. Parliamen.

His Majesties ANSWER.

WE cannot but extreamly wonder, that the causelesse Jealousies concerning Us, raised and fomented by a Maligniant partie in this Kingdom, which desires nothing more then to snatch to themselves particular advantages out of a generall combustion (which means of advantage shall never be ministred to them by Our fault or seeking) should not onely be able to seduce a weak Party in this Our Kingdom, but seem to finde so much countenance even from both Houses, as that Our raising of a Guard (without further Designe then for the safety of Our Person, an Action so Legall, in Manner so Peaceable, upon Causes so evident and necessary) should not onely be looked upon & petitioned against by them, as a Cause of Jealou-

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sie, but declared to be the raising of a War against them, contrary to Our former professions of Our care of Religion and Law. And We no lesse wonder, that this Action of Ours should be said (in a very large expression) to be apprehended by the Inhabitants of this Countrey as an Affrightment and disturbance to Our People, having been as well received here, as it is every where to be justified, and (We speak now of the Generall, not of a few seduced particulars) assisted and sped by this Countrey with that loyall Affection and Alacrity, as is a most excellent Example set to the rest of the Kingdom, of the care of Our safety upon all occasions, and shall never be forgotten by Us, nor We hope by Our Posterity; but shall be ever paid to them, in that which is the proper expression of a Princes gratitude, a perpetuall vigilant care to govern them justly, and to preserve the onely Rule by which they can be so governed, The Law of the Land: And We are confident, that if you were your selves eye witnesses, ye would so see the contrary, as to give little present thanks, and hereafter little credit to your Informers; and if you have no better intelligence of the inclinations and affections of the rest of the Kingdom, certainly the mindes of Our People (which to some ends and purposes you represent) are but ill represented unto you.

Have you so many Moneths together not contented your Selves to relie for Security (as your Predecessours have done) upon the Affection of the People, but by your own single authority raised to your

your selves a Guard (and that sometimes of no ordinary numbers, and in no ordinary way) and could not all those Pikes and Protestations, that Army on one side, and that Navie on the other, perswade Us to command you to disband your Forces, and to content your selves with your ordinary (that is, no) Guard, or work Us in an opinion that you appeared to leavie War against Us, or had any further Designe? And is it possible that the same persons should be so apt to suspect and condemn Us, who have been so unapt in the same matter (upon much more ground) to tax or suspect them? This is Our Case, Notwithstanding the care and fidelity of Our Parliament, Our Fort is kept by Armed men against Us, Our proper goods first detained from Us, and then contrary to Our Command, by strong hand, offered to be carried away (in which at once all Our property as a private person, all Our Authority as a King, are wrested from Us) And yet for Us to secure Our Self in a Legall way (that Sir John Hotham may not by the same Forces, or by more raised by pretence of the same Authority (for they say he raiseth daily some, and we know it no new thing for him to pretend Orders that he cannot shew) continue the War that he hath leavied against Us, and as well imprison Our Person, as detain Our goods, and as well shut Us up in York, as shut Us out of Hull; is said to be esteemed a cause of great Jealousie to the Parliament, a raising War against them, and of danger to the whole Kingdom; while these Injustices and Indignities offered

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to Us avocountenanced by them who ought to be most forward in Our Vindication and their punishment, in observation of their Oaths and of the trust reposed in them by the people, and to avoid the dissolution of the present Government: Upon which Case the whole world is to judge, whether We had not reason, not wholly to rely upon the Care and Fidelity of Our Parliament, being so strangely blinded by Malignant spirits, as not to perceive Our injuries, but to take some care of Our Own Person, and in Order to that, to make use of that Authority which the Laws declare to be in Us: And whether this Petition, with such a threatning Conclusion, accompanied with more threatning Votes, gives Us not cause rather to increase then diminish Our Guards, especially since We saw before the Petition a Printed Paper dated the 17. of May, underwritten Hen. Elsing Cler. Domus Com. commanding (in the name of both Lords and Commons) the Sheriffs of all Our Counties, to raise the power of all those Our Counties to suppresse such of Our Subjects, as by any of Our Commands shall be drawn together, and put (as that Paper calls it) in a Posture of Warre, charging Our Officers and Subjects to assist them in the performance thereof at their Perils: For though We cannot suspect that this Paper (or any bare Votes not grounded upon Law or Reason, or quotations of repealed Statutes) should have any ill influence upon Our good People, who know their duties too well, not to know that to take up Arms against those, who (upon a Legall Command,

(that is, Ours) come together to a most Regall end, (that is, Our Securitie and preservation) were to leavie war against Us, and who appear in this County (and we are confident they are so throughout the Kingdom) no lesse satisfied with the Legality, Conveniency, and Necessity of these Our Guards, and no lesse sensible of the indignities and dangers (which makes it necessary) then we are Our Self; yet if that paper be really the Act of both Houses, We cannot look upon it but as the highest of scorns and indignities, first to issue Commands of Force against Us, and after those have appeared uselesse, to offer by Petition to perswade Us to that which that Force should have effected.

We conclude this Answer to your Petition with Our counsell to you, That you joyn with Us in exacting satisfaction for that unparaleld, and yet unpunished Action of Sir John Hotham's, And that you command Our Fort and Goods to be returned to Our own hands, That you lay down all pretences (under pretence of necessity, or declaring what is Law) to make Laws without Us, and, by consequence, but a Cypher of Us, That you declare effectually against Tumults, and call in such Pamphlets (punishing the Authors and Publishers of them) as seditiously endeavour to disable Us from protecting Our people, by weakning, by false aspersions, and new false doctrines, Our Authority with them, and their Confidence in Us: The particulars of which Tumults and Pamphlets, We would (long since) have taken care that

Our

May learned Councell should have been inabled to give in evidence, if, upon Our former Offer, We had received any return of incouragement from you in it. And if you do this, you then (and hardly till then) will perswade the world, that you have discharged your duty to God, The trust reposed in you by the people, and the fundamentall Lawes and Constitutions of the Kingdom. And imployed your care and utmost power to secure the Parliament, (for We are still a part of the Parliament, and shall be till this well founded Monarchy be turned to a Democracy) And to preserve the peace and Quiet of the Kingdom, which together with the defence of the Protestant Profession, The Lawes of the Land, and Our own just Prerogative, (as a part of, and a defence to those Lawes) have been the main end, which in Our Consultations and Actions We propoſed to Our Self.

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